

Route 72

Solutions

Meeting On Route 72 In Cape County

MoDOT hosted a public hearing to get input on the next phase of the Route 72 work. This section of the multi-phase corridor project begins at the Bollinger County line to Route 34 in Jackson.

More than 100 residents attended to view preliminary plans and give their feedback on the nine-mile improvement plan. The work calls for resurfacing the route with six-foot paved shoulders.

Construction has actually been accelerated to 2008.

"We're combining this job with another phase of the project to hopefully reduce costs and speed up construction," says Project Manager Tim Richmond. "We expect to accept bids for the work this November, and if everything goes well, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission could award a contract in December with work getting underway next spring."

During construction, traffic may be slow moving when work to resurface the lanes and pave the shoulders gets underway. Traffic will be reduced to one lane. Motorists are urged to plan alternate routes or prepare



MoDOT is planning to accelerate construction by one year.

for long delays.

"There will be very limited right-of-way needed for this portion of the work," says Richmond. "Work to purchase property is expected to start this summer."

Richmond says several residents had questions about the Byrd Creek and Whitewater River bridges. Both bridges will be replaced with wider bridges; however, the work will not be included with the initial resurfacing contract but rather is expected in 2009.

"We hope to hold a public meeting regarding the replacement of these bridges later this year," says Richmond.

If you were unable to attend the meeting and want more information, contact us toll-free at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (1-888-275-6636). More information, including the meeting handouts, is also available at our website at modot.org/southeast.



New Signs Keep You Informed

MODOT is using new roadway signs in an effort to inform the public of their opportunity to provide input and learn more about roadway projects.

"During one of our post-construction conferences, our project team was brainstorming ways to get the public more involved early on in our process," says Project Manager Eric Krapf. "We came up with the idea to put a sign at the project location, so folks traveling through would know about the upcoming meeting."

"It's always challenging to get the people who are most affected informed about our meetings. These signs will alert those who drive through that area daily that something is being planned," says Transportation Project Designer Jason Williams. "And, there are so many things that we learn from talking with the people who live and drive in the area of our projects. It's much more beneficial and economical to have that information early on in the design process."

Krapf worked with MoDOT's traffic department to develop a new sign that could be used for different projects and still give motorists information about specific meetings. The result was two different signs that alert the public of an upcoming public meeting. One design advertises the meeting is about roadway improvements and the other about

bridge improvements. There's also a blank space where dates specific to the project can be added.

"Drivers will still have to call us to find out where the meeting will be held," says Krapf.

"There's only so much we can safely put on a sign, but at least drivers will know something's going on and have the opportunity to come, find out more and share their input."

The Route 72 meeting held in February was the first time the signs were used and by the following morning after they were installed along the project area, one message had been left overnight with three more phone calls coming in first thing.

Krapf says the project team will continue its usual public meeting notification such as news releases



to the media, flyers in the affected area, and post cards to property owners but hopes that the new signs will give even more people the opportunity to be involved in their transportation improvements.

"We're doing our best to keep folks involved in the process," he says. "We hope the signs will open one more avenue of dialogue, and we will continue looking for additional methods of improving the process."

Route 34/72 In Jackson

The second phase of the Route 34/72 work in Jackson is moving right along.

Penzel Construction is doing concrete work. West Lane Street has been closed on the south side of Route 34 and will remain closed

until the new pavement is in place.

Lanes have been reduced to 11 feet from East Lane Street to the Jackson Medical Center to begin widening of existing pavement.

This portion of the work is expected to wrap up late this sum-



Progress Thus Far ...

Castor River Project

A new Castor River Bridge has been built. Cuts have been made for the new roadway and the embankment has been built.

Grading has resumed after last fall's wet weather followed by winter temperatures.

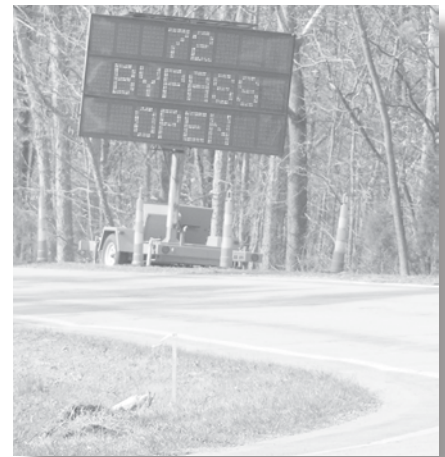
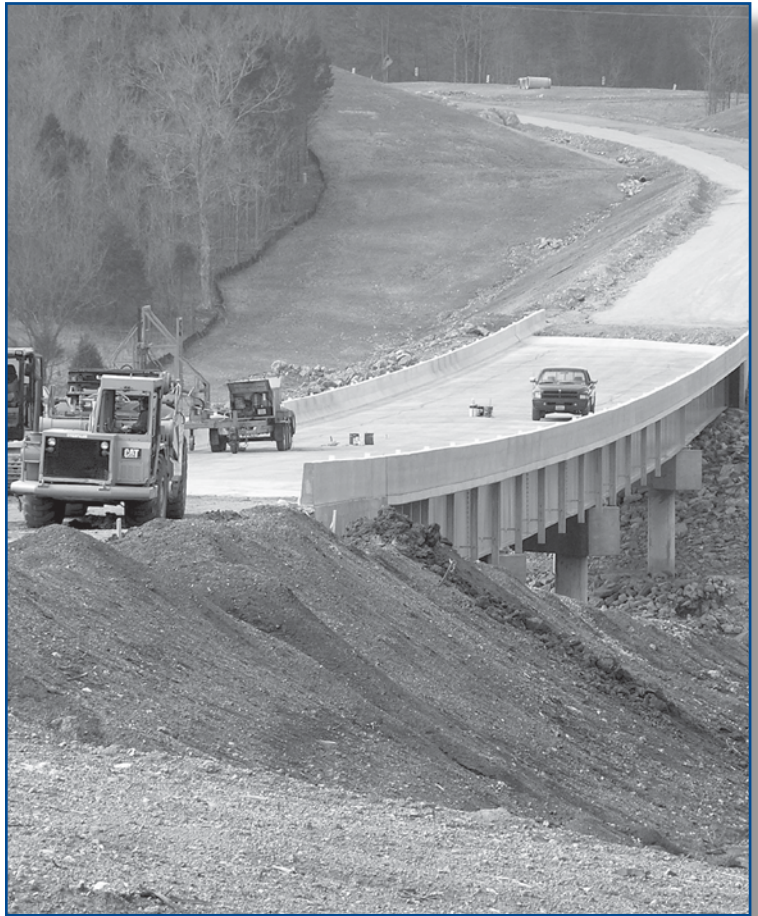
Traffic is currently routed on bypasses east and west of the existing Castor River Bridge and the speed is reduced. Please continue to drive carefully and obey the signs in the work zones.

Fredericktown to Patton Resurfacing Project

One portion of this project about a mile west of Route O will be relocated on a new alignment, and roadway grading for the embankment is mostly complete. Driveway pipe replacement is mostly complete throughout the project limits. Culvert extensions are in progress throughout the project.

The contractor is active in the relocation areas, about a mile west of Bucks Creek (or two miles east of Route HH), and on shoulder grading near Fredericktown.

Motorists may expect five to ten-minute delays at equipment crossings or one-lane, flagger-controlled work zones. Again, please drive safely in the work zones.



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The widening to four lanes will conclude with the final phase from Route 34 to one and a half miles east of Route 34 starting next year. MoDOT expects to accept bids for the job in January 2008, meaning work could get underway as soon as spring '08.



Questions On Route 72 Improvements?



Tim Richmond

For information on Route 72 improvements in Madison, Bollinger and Cape Girardeau Counties.

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Solutions to:

- Public Meeting
- New Signs Keep You Informed
- Construction Progress



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